

Message Text

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52

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1427

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF

SUBJECT: ABOU DAOUD INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN JOURNALIST

1. LA PRESSE, UNOFFICIAL BUT GOT- OWNED FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPER, CARRIED VERY PROMINENTLY ON APRIL 1 REPORT OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN ABOU DAOUD AND AMERICAN JOURNALIST GEORGIE ANNE GEYER OF CHICAGO DAILY NEWS HELD MARCH 25 " SOMEWHERE IN AMMAN". LA PRESSE ARTICLE STRESSED ABOU DAOUD STATEMENT THAT " THERE ARE SOME EXTREMISTS OF FATAH IN BSO BUT FATAH AND BSO ARE TWO DISTINCT THINGS". INTERVIEW ALSO QUOTES ABOU DAOUD AS SAYING THAT HE WORKED UNDER ORDERS OF ABOU AYAD, MEMBER OF FATAH POLITICAL BUREAU AND THAT ABOU AYAD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BSO.

2. TUNISIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED, BUT IN VERY LOW KEY, REPORTS OF ABOU DAOUD " CONFESSION" AND HIS STATEMENTS THAT BSO AND FATAH ARE SAME ORGANIZATION. LA PRESSE TREATMENT OF GEYER INTERVIEW, AND ITS PROMINENT IDENTIFICATION OF GEYER AS AMERICAN JOURNALIST, SEEMS DESIGNED TO COUNTER OTHER ABOU DAOUD STATEMENTS AND REASSURE TUNISIANS THAT BSO NOT CONNECTED WITH FATAH (WHICH TUNISIANS OF COURSE WANT TO BELIEVE). WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE BACKGROUND ON GEYER INTERVIEW, WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN ELSEWHERE.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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